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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. SO 70603

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COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Activities of the Arab Higher Executive

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(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED Lebanon, Beirut

DATE OF
INFO.

15 - 16 October 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

GRADING OF SOURCE						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A.	B. X	C.	D.	E.	F.	1.	2.	3. X	4.	5.	6.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Palestinian Arab with excellent contacts in the Arab Higher Executive in Beirut.

- Source states that on 15 October 1951, a meeting, which lasted almost three hours was held in the Beirut offices of the Arab Higher Executive on Rue Bliss. The following persons were present:¹

Ibrahim Abu-Dayyi
Muhammad Wizar Awdah
Rafiq Avis
Amil Ghuri
Mahmud Hamud
Yaqub Hanna (Priest)
Kamil al-Qadir
Shaykh Hissa (last name unknown)
Paris Sirhan

- The chief subject of discussion at the meeting was the proposed amalgamation of all committees and organizations existing among the Palestinian refugees into a single body.² The discussion was at first led by Abu-Dayyi, but was soon taken over by Awdah. Amil Ghuri insisted that all refugee groups be united under the Arab Higher Executive. Awdah, however, stated, ("with all respect in his voice to the Grand Mufti"), that the Arab Higher Executive in Lebanon had become so unpopular with the refugees that a new organization would be necessary if the various refugee groups were to be united. Yaqub Hanna, who, according to source, makes no effort to conceal his communist sympathies, supported Awdah in the discussion. No decision was reached at the meeting.
- On the following day the group met again and decided that the various refugee organizations would be consolidated into one and that the political activity of the new organization would be directed by the Arab Higher Executive through Amil Ghuri. All other activity would be conducted under the leadership of Awdah and Abu-Dayyi.³

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1. Washington Comment. Ghuri, Abu-Dayyi, Awdah, and Sirhan are well-known leaders of the Arab Higher Executive in Beirut. Rafiq 'Awis is in all probability identical with the Rafiq 'Umais of SO-60916. Ghawad's activities on behalf of Awdah and the Palestine Committee for Guerilla Action were reported in SO's -41040 and -45647. Source reported on 12 October 1960 that Yaqub Hanna, a pro-communist Greek Orthodox priest, had met with Awdah, Abu-Dayyi, Salah al-Nadhir, and Muhammad al-Madhum in Ain Sofar, Lebanon, during the week of 1 October 1960. Shaykh Musa may be identical with the Shaykh Musa Ayarawi of SO-61952.
2. Washington Comment. The two most important of these groups are the Arab Higher Executive itself, which, according to source, in Lebanon is still nominally headed by Ghuri, and the Congress of Homeless Palestinians, now directed by Awdah.
3. Washington Comment. The growing rift between Awdah and Ghuri has been reported most recently in SO-75740^o.

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